

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 190531Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0977
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 0545

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, EAID, MASS, SE, LY
SUBJECT: LIBYA REPORTEDLY TO ESTABLISH EMBASSY; SEYCHELLES
AID MISSION ON VISIT TO TRIPOLI

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM SEVERAL GOOD SOURCES THAT LIBYA WILL SOON ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN SEYCHELLES. ACCORDING SOURCES, EMBASSY WILL HAVE STAFF OF FIVE LIBYANS AND WILL OCCUPY LARGE PORTION OF ANNEX ON FIRST FLOOR OF VICTORIA HOUSE, SAME BUILDING WHERE U.S. EMBASSY AND BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION ARE LOCATED. AT PRESENT THERE ARE ONLY FIVE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS (U.S., U.K., FRANCE, USSR AND PRC) RESIDENT IN SEYCHELLES AND LAST ONE TO BE ESTABLISHED WAS SOVIET EMBASSY IN MAY 1977.

2. ON JUNE 12 LARGE, DIVERSIFIED AID DELEGATION DEPARTED SEYCHELLES FOR VISIT TO LIBYA. INCLUDED IN MISSION ARE
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MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND HOUSING MAXIME FERRARI, MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OGILVY BERLOUIS, TWO OFFICERS FROM "LIBERATION ARMY", SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE MOBILE UNIT (OFFICIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL SECURITY/ CROWD CONTROL), MIDDLE-GRADE OFFICERS FROM AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION AND PRESIDENT RENE'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT, DAVID THOMAS. GOS HAS NOT GIVEN ANY INFORMATION REGARDING PURPOSE

OF VISIT, BUT POLICE SOURCE HAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT LIBYA WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE PATROL BOAT(S) TO ENABLE GOS TO ENFORCE APPROXIMATELY HALF-MILLION SQUARE MILES OF SEA AREA IN ITS 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. ALSO, REPORTEDLY ON SEYCHELLES' SHOPPING LIST IS ARMY/POLICE EQUIPMENT (MAINLY COMMUNICATIONS) VALUED AT DOLS 250,000.

3. COMMENT: SINCE SEYCHELLES ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE IN JUNE 1976 LIBYA HAS DEMONSTRATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN DEVELOPING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT RENE AND HIS PARTY. FORMER PRESIDENT MANCHAM, DEPOSED IN JUNE 5, 1977 COUP D'ETAT, TOLD CHARGE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER INDEPENDENCE, THAT HE BELIEVED LIBYANS WERE PROVIDING RENE WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. IN YEAR SINCE COMING TO POWER, GOS OFFICIALS HAVE VISITED TRIPOLI (AND BEEN RECEIVED BY COLONEL KADHAFI) ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS AND LIBYANS HAVE SENT OCCASIONAL "GOODWILL MISSIONS" TO SEYCHELLES.
MATTSON

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